
Department: Public School Support
Division: Children's Programs Division
Description: Clarification of Learning Loss Funding

Sponsors:
Sen. Ward-Engelking
Rep. Horman

1. Information

On March 12, 2021, JFAC approved funding from the first round of COVID-19 relief funds that were part of the CARES Act and originally approved by the Division of Financial Management as a noncognizable adjustment for the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor in his official budget submission recommended \$20,000,000 for learning loss from the pandemic with a focus on K-4 literacy. JFAC however, voted to expand the use of this \$20,000,000 to include learning loss for any subject in grades K-12. For FY 2021 (current year) JFAC approved \$10,000,000 with half for K-4 literacy and the other half for K-12 from any subject, which includes literacy. For FY 2022, JFAC approved \$20,000,000 because the actual amount that will be spent in the current year is unknown; the approved motion by JFAC had intended to use additional federal moneys to increase learning loss funding if possible, however after JFAC approved the motion, members became aware that the additional funding was no longer available.

To clarify the amount of funding available, JFAC has two options:

- 1) reduce the amount approved from \$20,000,000 to \$10,000,000, clarify in the language section(s) for FY 2022, and provide reappropriation authority for the \$10,000,000 that was approved for FY 2021, or
- 2) clarify the amount of cash available for these purposes in new language; and consider modifying the amounts in the directing language for FY 2022.

2. Motion:

"I move to accept the language as shown on the screen."

AMENDED LANGUAGE

COVID-19 K-4 LITERACY LEARNING LOSS. Of the amount appropriated in Section _ of this act from the Federal COVID-19 Relief Fund, up to \$15,000,000 shall be distributed for summer reading programs for students in grades K-4 with funding to be distributed based on the number of students that scored below basic on the most recent Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) or comparable assessment. Moneys per student and associated formulas shall be determined by the Department of Education. Moneys subject to this section shall be allocated and distributed to school districts and public charter schools on behalf of students for remediation and credit recovery. Services may be delivered directly by school districts, public charter schools, or through any statewide or locally-approved contracts. This funding shall be used for addressing credit recovery, learning loss, tutoring, or other comparable services and shall be made available to students during normal school hours or outside normal school hours and the school year. Each school district and public charter school shall identify the most effective methods to address any COVID-19 pandemic learning loss. School districts and public charter schools are encouraged to maximize these funds to provide the most services for students. The Department of Education shall work with the State Board of Education to address any concerns related to the use of these moneys. If moneys provided in this section are in excess of actual needs, any remaining moneys may be used to address the learning loss for students in reading and math for any other grade from K-12. The Department of Education shall report to the State Board of Education and the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee by no later than September 15, 2021, and a second report no later than December 31, 2021, on the uses of funds and effectiveness of the programs and efforts.

COVID-19 K-12 LEARNING LOSS. Of the amount appropriated in Section _ of this act from the Federal COVID-19 Relief Fund, up to \$5,000,000 shall be distributed for any subject impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in grades K-12 with funding to be distributed to school districts and public charter schools from formulas determined by the Department of Education. All formulas are to be based on the various assessment scores when possible. Moneys subject to this section shall be allocated and distributed to school districts and public charter schools on behalf of students for remediation and credit recovery. Services may be delivered directly by school districts, public charter schools, or through any statewide or locally-approved contracts. This funding shall be used for addressing credit recovery, learning loss, tutoring, or other comparable services and shall be made available to students during normal school hours or outside normal school hours and the school year. Each school district and public charter school shall identify the most effective methods to address any COVID-19 pandemic learning loss. School districts and public charter schools are encouraged to maximize these funds to provide the most services for students. The Department of Education shall work with the State Board of Education to address any concerns related to the use of these moneys. The Department of Education shall report to the State Board of Education and the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee by no later than September 15, 2021, and a second report no later than December 31, 2021, on the uses of funds and effectiveness of the programs and efforts.

LEARNING LOSS FUNDING DISTRIBUTION. Of the moneys appropriated in Section 3 and Section _ of this act from the Federal COVID-19 Relief Fund, and for directed uses in Section(s) _, _, _ and _, not more than \$20,000,000 in total shall be distributed to school districts and charter schools in FY 2021 and FY 2022.